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SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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INDONESIA

INDONESIAN IMPOSTORS ATTEND WFTU MEETING IN HAVANA

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 14 Jun 82 pp 1, 9

[Article: "Income of 60 Percent of Indonesian Workers Less Than One Dollar Per Day"]

[Excerpts] Jakarta, KOMPAS--The All-Indonesian Labor Federation (FBSI) has no knowledge of and never was asked to send a delegation to the World Trade Union Congress held in Havana, Cuba, from 10 to 15 February, 1982. This was stated by the general chairman of the Executive Council of the FBSI, Agus Sudono, after he was received by President Soeharto at his residence on Jalan Cendana on Saturday [13 June].

According to Agus Sudono, when he attended the meeting of the Working Group of the ILO [International Labor Organization] in Vienna at the end of May, he learned of an astonishing development. This involved the World Trade Union Congress in Havana, which was sponsored by the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), whose headquarters are in Prague.

Agus Sudono said that according to the information he obtained, the congress was attended by two persons who called themselves Indonesian delegates and said they were the general chairman and a leader of the FBSI. "The two were named Mira Surya and S P Suwardi, but this was absolutely without the knowledge of the FBSI," Agus Sudono said.

He said that there was a possibility that the persons involved in this affair were Indonesians who live abroad and do not dare return home to Indonesia because they are members of the outlawed PKI [Indonesian Communist Party]. This is particular-likely in view of the fact that the members of the WFTU generally come from socialist and communist countries. "This development shows that there is still a latent danger from the remnants of the PKI. The two persons involved joined in signing a resolution which demanded that members of SOBSI [All-Indonesian Central Organization of Labor, a PKI front group] and the PKI like Munir and Soegito should be released from jail."

In answer to a question Agus Sudono said that 60 percent of all Indonesian workers still make less than \$1 per day.

According to Agus Sudono, 61 percent of the working force works in the agricultural sector, 9 percent in the service sector, 8 percent in the industrial sector, and 10 percent in the construction industry. Whereas the working force is growing by about 1.4 million per year at present, during the Fourth Five-Year Plan the increase in the working force will be about 2.0 million per year. By the end of the Fourth Five-Year Plan it is estimated that the working force will total 71.1 million people.

Therefore, he continued, the FBSI joined in the concern over the future of the Indonesian working force, because the total membership of the FBSI at present is 3.0 million. The FBSI has proposed to all companies to raise the salaries of their workers in accordance with the capacity of the company concerned.

He said that since the increase in the price of oil products in January, 1982, 45 companies in Indonesia have increased the wages of their workers by 10-20 percent.

He called on the Indonesian workers to follow the path of discussions in their struggle for an increase in wages, and particularly through the general session of the MPR [People's Consultative Assembly] in 1983. The FBSI has advised the workers not to use work stoppages in this connection. On the other hand the FBSI has advised companies not to dismiss workers in dealing with workers' demands.

In that connection, Agus Sudono said, the FBSI presently has 2,100 CLA [Collective Labor Agreements] covering more than 5,000 companies. This represents progress, by comparison with the time when the FBSI was established 10 years ago, when it only had 13 collective labor agreements.

Regarding the minimum wage of Indonesian workers, Agus Sudono said that it varied between Rp 400 and Rp 1,050 per day. There are 352 minimum wages divided according to the regional, sectoral, and subsectoral levels in 24 provinces. "To develop a national minimum wage more time is needed," said the general chairman of the FBSI.

He said that he had reported to President Soeharto on the results of his visit to Vienna to attend the ILO working meeting at the end of May. He said that he had used this occasion to meet with trade union leaders of EEC [European Economic Community] countries.

He stated that it was clear that trade unions in the EEC countries did not object to the Indonesian government's raising the textile export quota to those countries. Indonesia is asking for an increase of 10 percent in the quota, but the countries concerned have only agreed to an increase of 6 percent, Agus Sudono said.

Indeed, the trade unions in the EEC countries hope that Indonesian textiles can compete with textiles from Taiwan, Hongkong, Singapore, and Korea. "Our problem is often that we are not yet ready to meet the demand. For example, we have been asked to supply 700,000 pieces of cloth, but we were only able to produce 400,000 pieces of cloth," General Chairman Agus Sudono of the FBSI said.

INDONESIA

PRESIDENT SOEHARTO UNDERGOES MINOR SURGERY

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 19 Jun 82 p 1

[Article: "President Leaves Army Hospital After Minor Operation"]

[Excerpts] Jakarta, KOMPAS--President Soeharto left "Gatot Soebroto" Army Hospital Friday morning [19 June] after undergoing treatment there since Saturday, 13 June. The chief of state spent 6 days at the hospital for a physical examination and also underwent a minor operation on his bladder [kandung kemih].

The operation was performed by Dr Utama and Colonel (Navy) Dr Frits Kakiailatu (a urologist), who are members of the president's medical team. According to Dr Rubiono Kertopati, the chairman of the president's medical team, the operation on President Soeharto was "very successful." In addition Brig Gen Dr B R M Mardjono, President Soeharto's personal physician, closely followed the operation.

On Friday [19 June] President Soeharto was walking normally and was fit and fully recovered. The president was seen to be smiling when he left the hospital. Next Monday [22 June] the chief of state will resume his duties as usual.

This is the second time that President Soeharto has undergone a minor operation. In December, 1975, President Soeharto spent one week at "Sint Carolus" Hospital in Jakarta undergoing a gall bladder operation.

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INDONESIA

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON INDONESIAN PERSONALITIES

[Unless otherwise noted, the following information on Indonesian personalities has been extracted from Indonesian language sources published in Jakarta.]

TWO NEW AMBASSADORS--The Indonesian government has appointed two ambassadors. They are: Kris Noermattias and Mrs Artati Sudirdjo. They will be stationed in the German Democratic Republic and Switzerland, respectively. The Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday [10 Jun] that Ambassador Kris Noermattias and Ambassador Artati Sudirdjo had obtained agreement from the governments of the countries where they will be stationed. Ambassador Kris Noermattias replaces Ambassador Mohamed Hasan, and Ambassador Artati Sudirdjo replaces Ambassador Suryono Darusman, both of whom had completed their tours of duty. The two new ambassadors at present are still in office as director of the basic course for diplomatic and consular officers in the SESDILU [Ministry of Foreign Affairs School] (since 1979) and as an advisor in humanitarian law in the Ministry of Justice and a lecturer in humanitarian law at the National Defense Institute since 1978, respectively. [Text] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 11 Jun 82 p 1] 5170

DR ALI ALATAS--The Indonesian government has appointed Dr Ali Alatas Indonesian deputy permanent representative/ambassador to the United Nations in New York, replacing Abdullah Kamil. Dr Ali Alatas was born in Jakarta on 4 November 1932. He was educated at an HBS [Dutch colonial school], graduating in 1950; the Foreign Service Academy, from which he graduated in 1954; and the Faculty of Law of the University of Indonesia, from which he graduated in 1956. From 1952 to 1953 Dr Ali Alatas worked as a proofreader for the newspaper NIEWSGIER. From 1953 to 1954 he was financial and economics editor of ANETA News Agency. In 1954 he entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1956 to 1960 he was second secretary and then first secretary in the Indonesian Embassy in Bangkok. In 1960 he returned to Jakarta. From 1965 to 1966 he was director of information and cultural relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1966 to 1970 he was assigned to the Indonesian Embassy in Washington with the rank of counselor and then of minister-counselor. From 1972 to 1975 he was secretary to the director general for political affairs and was later chief of staff of the private office of the minister of foreign affairs. From 1975 to 1976 he was an adviser and chief of the secretariat of the minister of foreign affairs.

From 1976 to 1978 he was Indonesian deputy permanent representative at the United Nations center in Geneva with the rank of ambassador. From 1978 to the present he has been secretary to the vice president of Indonesia. Dr Ali Alatas is married and has three children. [Text] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 11 Jun 82 pp 1, 7] 5170

AZWAR RASJID--Azwar Rasjid and Soetjipto Wirosardjono on Saturday [30 May] were installed in office by State Secretary Soedharmono as chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the Central Statistical Office. The installation in office was attended by officials of the Central Statistical Office and chairmen and chiefs of non-ministerial state institutions. Azwar Rasjid was previously vice chief of the Central Statistical Office. He replaced Abdul Madjid as chairman, as the latter had reached 65 years of age, after 16 years as chairman of the Central Statistical Office. Soetjipto Wirosardjono was previously deputy chairman for planning and statistical analysis. [Excerpt] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 31 May 82 pp 1, 9] 5170

AIR MARSHAL SOEBAMBANG--Air Marshal Soebambang has been appointed Indonesian ambassador to Thailand, replacing Ambassador Lt Gen Hasnan Habib, who has completed his tour of duty and has been appointed ambassador to the United States. Air Marshal Soebambang was born in Pati (Central Java) on 15 August 1928. Since May, 1977, he has been inspector general of the Ministry of Defense and Security. His military education began at Flying School, from which he graduated in 1951. After that he took a number of courses and in 1958 graduated from the Royal Air Force Staff College in England. His military career has included service as director general of the National Flight and Aviation Agency and deputy commander of Defense Area II - Java and Madura. Among foreign assignments he has had were the posts of air attache at the Indonesian Embassy in Washington and air attache at the Indonesian Embassy in Ottawa (Canada). Air Marshal Soebambang has three children. [Text] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 4 Jun 82 p 9] 5170

R SOEGINO SUMOPRAWIRO--Minister of Justice Ali Said today [5 June] installed R Soegino Sumoprawiro as director general of immigration, replacing Nichlany Sudardjo. The installation in office and the transfer of functions took place at the Ministry of Justice, Jalan Hayam Wuruk, Central Jakarta. Soegino Sumoprawiro was previously chief of the Jakarta Regional Immigration Office (the proper title is coordinator of immigration in the regional office of the Ministry of Justice--Editor). The new director general is a career official in the immigration service. Since he graduated from the immigration training school in 1951, he has worked without interruption in immigration offices, apart from the time in 1967 when he was vice consul in the Indonesian Consulate in Penang. The former director general, Nichlany Sudardjo, will retire on Saturday [6 June]. Soegino Sumoprawiro was born in Rembang, Central Java, on 2 August 1929. Soegino began his career in the immigration service in 1951. "As soon as I completed my immigration training course I went directly to work in the immigration service," he told a KOMPAS representative at the transfer of office ceremony. From 1951 to 1967 he served in immigration offices in Pontianak,

Semarang, Balikpapan, Tanjung Pinang, and Bagansiapi-api. In 1967 he was assigned as Indonesian vice consul in Penang, Malaysia. After 8 years of service overseas he was appointed chief of the Examination Section of the Sub-Directorate of Investigations of the Directorate of Immigration Finger-printing of the Directorate General of Immigration in Jakarta. In Jakarta his career led him steadily upward. In 1979 he was appointed chief of the Sub-Directorate of Immigration Technical Security in the Directorate of Surveillance of Foreign Nationals in the Directorate General of Immigration. previous to that he had been chief of the Surveillance of Foreign Nationals Section of the Jakarta Regional Immigration Office. During his service in the Directorate of Surveillance of Foreign Nationals Soegino was entrusted with serving as a member of the Indonesian Delegation in the boundary negotiations with Vietnam and was a member of the team processing Vietnamese refugees. In 1980 Soegino was assigned to BAKIN (State Intelligence Coordinating Body) as a member of the "Clearing House." He is well-built and gives the impression that he is a sportsman. "I enjoy taking part in sports, running and exercising," says the alumnus of the fifth class of the training school of the Ministry of Justice. At home he spends a lot of time at his bird cage, indicating that the new director general of immigration is also a bird lover. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 5 Jun 82 pp 1, 9] 5170

AMBASSADOR PUDJO PRASETYO--The government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has given its agreement to the appointment of Pudjo Prasetyo as Indonesian ambassador to Vietnam, replacing the late Ambassador Sudarsono. Pudjo Prasetyo was born in Yogyakarta on 14 June 1925. He attended a Dutch grammar school [HIS] from 1931 to 1938, a Dutch middle school [HBS] from 1938 to 1942; and an Indonesian middle school [SMA] from which he graduated in 1951. His military training has included the Quartermaster Basic Officers Training Course, Fort Lee, Virginia, in the United States, 1953; the Quartermaster Officers Advanced Course at Fort Lee, 1955; and the general staff and command course at Frunze Academy in Moscow, 1962 to 1963. From 1946 to 1961 Ambassador Pudjo Prasetyo served in a number of Army units. From 1962 to 1963 he was a middle-ranking officer assigned to the Directorate of Administration with the task of studying in Moscow. From 1964 to 1965 he was a staff officer in Military Region XVII/Jayapura. From 1966 to 1967 he was deputy chief of staff of Military Region XII/Pontianak. From 1968 to 1971 he was assigned to Hanoi and Phnom Penh as military and defense attache. From 1971 to 1973 he was assigned as director of logistics administration. From 1973 to 1974 he was deputy assistant for logistics to the Army chief of staff. From 1974 to 1975 he served as a member of the Indonesian Garuda Mission and director general of the International Commission of Control and Supervision in Saigon. From 1975 to 1980 he served as chief of the Bureau of Organizational Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1980 to the present he has been Indonesian ambassador to Laos. [Text] [Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 9 Jun 82 p 4] 5170

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INDONESIA

ANTI-COMMUNIST BOARD INSTALLED IN OFFICE

Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 29 Jun 82 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Jakarta KOPKAMTIB Commander Installs in Office Members of Auxiliary Board to Guard Against the Communist Danger"]

[Excerpts] Jakarta, 29 June--Supervision and guidance for former detainees involved in the G-30-S/PKI affair [Abortive communist uprising in 1965], who have been returned to community life, are responsibilities for local government authorities, assisted by the police and the regional special branch office. This was stated by the commander of the Jakarta Security and Order Command, Norman Sasono, on Tuesday morning [23 June] when he installed in office 18 members of the Auxiliary Board to Guard Against the Communist Danger.

He went on to say that, according to data in the Jakarta Special Branch Office, 5,580 persons detained for involvement in the G-30-S/PKI affair had been released, not including those moved from other areas and placed under the Jakarta Special Branch office. Indeed, the commander said, among the ex-detainees are 36 persons who could be considered as belonging to the "hard core" of the communist movement. There are 45 others who were released from detention for involvement in the G-30-S/PKI affair but who are still detained as convicted common criminals.

In such circumstances the mechanism for supervising the ex-detainees is still felt to be inadequate, and there are many weaknesses and a lack of effective performance of duty. These shortcomings and weaknesses must immediately be taken care of. If this is not done, it will be used as a loophole by communist remnants and former detainees of the G-30-S/PKI affair to organize and revivify communism in our country.

"Our children who, at the time of the G-30-S/PKI affair, had just been born or were still very small, are now between 17 and 18 years old and do not understand anything about the cruel acts committed by the communists during the G-30-S/PKI affair. In terms of the latent communist danger they are unconcerned about it or pay no attention to it. Such a situation makes it very possible for communism to be revived in our country," said Norman Sasono.

In accordance with the tactics and strategy of international communism the former detainees of the G-30-S/PKI affair will be used to revive communist teachings in Indonesia. To deal with this, care and vigilance must really be improved.

According to the commander, there are still a rather large number of social issues which have not been properly dealt with. There are the questions of land, labor, urbanization, sidewalk crime, education, juvenile delinquency, gang fighting, unemployment, and injustices which will be used by the remnants of the G-30-S/PKI affair to create social unrest. Indeed, they would go so far as to cause social anarchy in creating the appropriate conditions for reviving communism in Indonesia.

With this picture of social concerns Norman Sasono expressed the hope that the officials just installed in office would be more careful and precise in carrying out their duties.

He reminded them that their task was to help the regional special branch office to deal with the communist danger, to detect these efforts and activities by using the community resources available to watch out and to increase vigilance in a careful way and resolutely employing community ideology to prevent the growth and redevelopment of communism in Indonesia.

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CSO: 4213/71

INDONESIA

DEVELOPMENT OF INDONESIAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 30 Jun 82 pp 1, 11

[Article: "Minister of Research and Technology Habibie in Tokyo: Indonesia Is Ready to Build Defense Industries"]

[Excerpts] Tokyo, 29 June--Minister of State for Research and Technology B J Habibie confirmed that Indonesia is presently preparing to develop what is called its "defense industries," aimed at the production of equipment needed by the armed forces, including the police. This is to establish security on about 13,000 islands in Indonesia, in an area about the same as Eastern and Western Europe together, against infiltration from outside and to wipe out smuggling.

The minister made this statement during a press conference at the Hotel New Otani Tuesday afternoon [30 June]. He declared that in terms of weapons Indonesia could not continue to depend on the outside world, adding that "we also cannot continue to depend on pointed bamboo spears" to defend our interests and the interests of friendly countries involved in Indonesia.

Answering a question, Minister Habibie stated that there was a possibility of cooperation with Japan in the defense field, although what he meant was limited to the joint production of equipment which was not directly used as war material.

In this connection the minister emphasized that the Indonesian people respect the provisions of the Japanese constitution which prohibit the production of war-related materials.

"However, I came to Japan to invite the Japanese to cooperate with Indonesia in producing goods needed not only by the Japanese people and the Indonesian people, but also needed by the whole world," Minister Habibie declared.

The minister would like to see cooperation between Japan and Indonesia like that on the giant Asahan project in North Sumatra, for example in the field of production of equipment for developing solar energy such as silicon materials, or in the field of shipping.

The minister also "invited" Japanese capital and technology to cooperate with Indonesia in the development of Batam Island, only 20 km from Singapore, where the Japanese Nichimen Shipbuilding Company has begun to build facilities for ship repair.

The minister noted that Japan did not need to have any doubts about the good intentions of Indonesia and that, on the other hand, Indonesia did not need to have any doubts about Japanese intentions, provided the two sides continue a dialogue to develop their respective economies in the interests of the stability and progress of Asia.

On the occasion of the press conference Minister Habibie expressed satisfaction that Japan is the largest foreign investor in Indonesia, with \$4.4 billion invested, and was also the largest provider of technical assistance.

He hoped that Japan would continue to transfer technology which was appropriate and useful for Indonesian society and conditions.

The transfer of appropriate and useful technology to Indonesia by an advanced industrial country like Japan meant that it would be possible to avoid waste or using skills and funds in an unnecessary way, Habibie said. On Wednesday [1 July], according to his program, Habibie will call on Minister of International Trade and Industry Shintaro Abe, before continuing his trip to the United States and Europe.

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INDONESIA

HASAN TIRO FOLLOWERS CAPTURED

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 28 Jun 82 pp 1, 7

[Article: "Individuals Captured Alive, with Weapons and Equipment"]

[Excerpts] Banda Aceh, HARIAN UMUM AB--The Aceh Special Branch, which has been continuing to round up members of the Hasan Tiro band, on Friday, 25 June 1982, succeeded in capturing Yasin Ali alive. Yasin Ali called himself commander of Region IV of the Hasan Tiro movement. The capture was carried out by Task Unit "B" under the command of Maj (Infantry) Jahdi Husin. Yasin Ali was captured with a Madsen sub-machine gun, three magazines, and 56 rounds of ammunition.

On 21 May Task Unit "B" successfully captured Idris Mahmud, governor of the Peureulak area, together with three of his followers, various equipment, and two weapons and 130 rounds of ammunition, together with a typewriter, clothing, and medicines.

Task Unit "A" under the command of Major (Infantry) Subowo on 15 April 1982 succeeded in shooting dead Ilyas Leube, minister of justice of the Hasan Tiro movement, together with two of his followers, Idris Achmad (governor of the Batee Iliek area) and Yakout Piah (logistics soldier). They were shot because they refused to surrender and tried to run away. Seized from the three dead men were one rifle, 74 rounds of ammunition, a radio receiver, and a number of documents.

Task Unit "A" also found and destroyed 2 hectares of marijuana, which belonged to Ilyas Leube and his followers.

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INDONESIA

MORE TAX REVENUE NEEDED

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 24 Jun 82 p 3

[Article: "Increased Receipts from the Oil Sector Cannot Be Expected Any Longer"]

[Excerpts] Jambi, HARIAN UMUM AB--As a consequence of expanding development, the funds needed to pay for it are also increasingly large. Whereas in the past an increase in development expenditures could be met from increased receipts from the oil sector, beginning with the year 1982/1983 increased receipts from the oil sector can no longer be expected.

Based on the decision of the OPEC conference, the oil price will not go up until the end of 1982, and indeed there is a possibility that it will not go up until the end of 1983. Besides that, receipts from non-oil exports are also declining.

This was stated by Dr Suripto, representing the director general of taxes, speaking last week in Jambi during the transfer of the office of chief of the Jambi Tax Inspectorate from Dr Arkiran to Dr Haji Parlaungan Harahap.

Because receipts from the oil and non-oil export sectors could not be expected to increase, increased development funds must be met by receipts from the domestic sector, that is, tax receipts.

The director general of taxes is convinced that over the next 6 to 7 years tax receipts will exceed receipts from the oil sector.

The task of the tax office in fiscal year 1982/1983, as contained in the State Budget, if compared with tax collections in the previous fiscal year, is to collect 132.8 percent of the previous year's total. In this connection in fiscal year 1981/1982 tax receipts were only 23.8 percent greater than in fiscal year 1980/1981.

Increasing receipts by 32.8 percent in 1982/1983, compared to 23.8 percent in 1981/1982, will not be an easy task for several reasons. These relate to the condition of the world economy and, therefore, the fact that the Indonesian economy will not perform much differently than it did in the

previous year. Our inflation rate is going down, so it won't help an increase in tax receipts. Furthermore, personnel and equipment available to the tax office will not be much different in terms of either quantity or quality. The tax laws have not introduced changes in the tax level, except a tax on wealth which will begin to be collected in January, 1983, will be raised from .5 percent to 1.0 percent.

Although meeting the goals of the 1982/1983 budget will not be an easy job, it is clear that the state budget figures are not too high, considering the potential which has not yet been touched or explored by the tax office, Dr Suripto said.

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INDONESIA

BATAM ISLAND DEVELOPMENTS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 24 Jun 82 p 2

[Article: "Batam Island Does Not Yet Attract Much Interest from Singapore Businessmen"]

[Text] Up to the present communications between Batam Island and Singapore are still limited and inconvenient. Not many Singapore businessmen intend to invest their capital in Batam, although the prime minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, and a group of businessmen once visited the island.

One reason for this is that the infrastructure needed to develop the island has not yet been fully constructed. The island's facilities are too limited, compared to the needs of the Singapore businessmen. Thus, many businessmen are inclined to invest their capital in Singapore itself or cross the causeway to Johore in Malaysia, rather than go to Batam.

A woman complained, after spending 3 years in business on Batam Island, that it was not very profitable. So she urged her husband to wind up his business on Batam. She said, "Just compare, if the money invested in Batam had been used in business in Singapore, we would have made much more." Fortunately, her husband stood his ground and asked his wife to be patient for a little while longer. He is one of a type of Singapore businessmen who, although they are doubtful, still are optimistic about the development of Batam Island.

Batam is still far from convenient to be reached by Singaporeans, although the island is only 12.5 miles, or about 20 km south of Singapore. It can be reached by motorboat in 45 minutes. There are still many obstacles which stand in the way of visitors from Singapore, especially Singapore citizens.

"On arriving in Batam we must have visas costing 13 Singapore dollars. (Visas can be issued on arrival--Editor.) And if we give them 15 Singapore dollars, we don't get the 2 dollars in change," a businessman told a KOMPAS representative.

They calculate that the cost of the trip is a minimum of 75 Singapore dollars for one day (cost of the ferry is 60 Singapore dollars, round trip, plus

15 Singapore dollars for the visa). For they return on the same day to Singapore, as there is not yet a hotel to spend the night on the island. This is especially the case when they are involved in handling documents which only take a short time.

Taking care of documents is not as easy as it is in Singapore. For on Batam they must also pay bribes. Or if this is not in the form of money, it is in another form which is indirectly turned over to the official concerned, but through a person close to him. No one knows what form these take or whether it is a matter of buying something for him in a Singapore "super-market."

"Providing facilities of that kind once or twice, we don't object. But unfortunately it becomes a custom, and any time we don't do it, we're in difficulty," said another businessman.

For a number of other businessmen, Batam is an attractive area. This is particularly because it isn't too far away from Singapore, and the rent on land on the island is still very low, compared with Singapore at present. On Batam, for a period of 30 years, a businessman only needs to pay a rent of about 30, 40, or 50 Singapore cents per square foot, depending on the location of the area involved. However, in Singapore ground rent goes up sharply from 10 to 20 to 100 Singapore dollars, or even more, per square foot for a period of 30 years. However, although the land rent is very high and open space is very limited, the Singapore businessman doesn't like to leave his country. They are willing to spend money to build in a confined space, rather than going to invest capital on Batam Island, which up to now they think doesn't suit them.

One reason is that facilities and infrastructure have already been developed in Singapore. And every foreign businessman who intends to invest capital in Singapore obtains incentives and the assurance of stable conditions from the government. By depositing a guarantee of 500,000 Singapore dollars a businessman obtains a permit to stay in the island nation. The government is very firm in suppressing any violation of the law. Indeed, paying "tips" regarded in other countries as proper continue to be prohibited in Singapore at present.

It should not be surprising that in the effort to promote Batam Island in Singapore the Batam Authority Organization is still encountering many challenges. There are challenges in the form of wiping out all kinds of improper exactions [pungutan liar] and other problems. Or challenges from abroad in connection with preparing this area so that it will become a region which is ready to be put on the market for the investment of capital, particularly foreign capital.

In that connection Singapore businessmen who are still optimistic about Batam Island hope that the development of Batam will be handled by a syndicate on the basis of mature planning. It should not be turned over to

people like those who are handling it now. What is needed is a careful and detailed survey, if necessary using foreign consultants. The planned program should be carried out carefully, not just issuing high-sounding printed brochures, with no one visiting the area to see that the program is carried out.

Batam could be sold to Singapore businessmen. However, its investment needs must be studied first, in order to stimulate capital investment on Batam. To some extent such studies can be carried out from Singapore.

The Singapore government itself is still looking for ways to stimulate capital investment on that island. Recently, new, reclaimed land was developed in the Marina Selatan area, amounting to about 255 hectares. Half of this area will be used to develop a network of roads and to provide open spaces. The remainder will be sold to investors to meet the cost of development of the Mass Rapid Transportation (MRT) system in the city state. The cost of land is very high because to obtain more land it is necessary to from Indonesian land and water areas. In any case, Singapore businessmen are optimistic. The development of Marina Selatan will move more quickly than the development of Batam Island.

5170
CSO: 4213/69

INDONESIA

RICE PRODUCTION INCREASES

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 25 Jun 82 p 10

[Article: "If There Were No Need to Stock Food, Indonesia Could Export Rice"]

[Excerpts] Jakarta, 25 June--Deputy Minister for Food Production Dr Achmad Affandi stated that at present Indonesia could export rice if there were not the need to establish a national food stock of 5.0 million tons.

The deputy minister made the statement Wednesday evening [24 June] at a program at the opening of Puasa [Muslim fasting month] where he appeared with leaders of the mass media in Jakarta. He was answering questions from the ANTARA representative on the possibility Indonesia could export rice as a result of the sharp increase in rice production over the past 3 years.

Officials of BULOG [Bureau of Logistical Affairs] as the government agents for the purchase of rice in connection with the maintenance of domestic food stocks, through their regional offices, have been rather busy over the past 2 years arranging for the storage of rice sold by the farmers because they lack warehouse space.

Indonesian rice production over the past 2 years has shown a surprising increase. Whereas in 1980 production totaled 20.246 million tons of rice in 1981 this figure increased to 22.167 million tons of rice.

The increase in rice production between 1980 and 1981 amounted to about 9.49 percent, according to data issued by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The minister of agriculture, Prof Soedarsono Hadisapoetro, has stated that the projected target for rice production in 1982 would increase by a further 4.5 percent over 1981, that is, from 22.167 million tons of rice in 1981 to 23.16 million tons of rice in 1982.

Referring to this projected target, Deputy Minister Affandi felt that the target would be exceeded. However, he was not prepared to state what the production would be for the 1982 harvest.

The Indonesian government has announced that the stocks of food under careful management must reach the level of 5.0 million tons of rice. With such stocks the possibility of a food shortage in a given area of Indonesia, as a consequence of a failure in the harvest or unfavorable weather conditions, could be dealt with.

Up to the end of March, 1982, the national food stocks (rice) under government control only amounted to 2.5 million tons. Therefore, 2.5 million tons more must be added in order to achieve a secure national food stock.

5170
CSO: 4213/69

INDONESIA

TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 225 SHIPS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 14 Jun 82 p 2

[Article: "Eight Countries Tender for Construction of 226 Ships"]

[Excerpts] Jakarta, KOMPAS--Eight shipbuilding countries, West Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, South Korea, France, Italy, the United States, and Singapore, are known to have registered to take part in the international tender for the construction of 225 ships with a Deadweight Tonnage of between 1,000 and 17,000 tons.

The ship construction program will be financed by export credits or foreign loans amounting to \$762 million. However, up to the present, it has not yet been determined for certain which country will provide the loan assistance.

A SUMBER source in the Ministry of Communications on Saturday [13 June] stated that the types of ships to be constructed include passenger ships, cargo ships, barges, tugboats, ships for transporting livestock, ships for transporting cement, coal, and asphalt, and ships for transporting transmigrants to the outer islands.

Of the total of 225 ships 29 will be built at Indonesian shipyards. The remainder will be constructed overseas, particularly the larger ships and those with special characteristics.

Government Guarantee

The KOMPAS source stated that the repayment of the export credit will be undertaken by the navigation companies which will operate the ships, supported by a guarantee from the Indonesian government. However, it cannot yet be determined what will be the period of time over which the credit must be repaid or which shipping companies will be allocated the ships. What is clear is that the allocation of the ships will be on a selective basis. This is to avoid the possibility that ships will be allocated to shipping companies which cannot make the payments.

When asked why a large proportion of the ships must still be constructed overseas, the SUMBER source said that the cost of construction of the ships

will be financed by export credits, and the countries providing this assistance must have a role in the construction. Another reason is that a large proportion of the ships cannot yet be produced in Indonesia.

Domestic shipyards up to the present can only produce ships up to 3,500 DWT. In addition, there are only a few shipyards. Meanwhile, there is a rather large number of ships to be built, and the whole order must be completed in 1984.

Recently, the general chairman of IPERINDO (Association of Indonesian National Shipbuilding Companies), Soelarto Hadisoemarto, commented to the press that if the domestic shipbuilding industry were challenged to do so, it could build the ships itself, however large they were. He gave the example of the construction of an 11,000 ton dredge, which was constructed by a consortium involving PT Pelita Behari, the Dokpriok Company, the Koja Company, and PT Ineco. The ship, which was entirely financed by PT Timah, will be completed in 27 months. Its final assembly will be undertaken in the shipyard of PT Pelita Bahari, which can repair ships up to 8,000 DWT.

5170
CSO: 4213/69

INDONESIA

COAL PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 25 Jun 82 p 3

[Article: "Indonesian Coal Production Continues to Increase and Has a Clear Future"]

[Text] Jakarta, HARIAN UMUM AB--Indonesian coal production continues to increase and has a clear future before it, said the chief of the community relations section of PN Tambang Batubara, A H Sazili, to ANTARA in Jakarta on Monday [22 June].

He said that domestic production of coal in 1981 reached 350,000 metric tons, an increase of about 46,000 metric tons over production in 1980, which totaled 303,990 metric tons. It is estimated that in 1982 coal production will amount to more than 400,000 metric tons.

From the 1981 production 241,687 tons came from the Ombilin Coal Mine in West Sumatra, and 108,663 tons came from the Bukit Asam Coal Mine in South Sumatra. The remainder came from small mines.

The production by the Ombilin Coal Mine in 1981 represented a substantial increase over 1980 production, when 142,829 tons were produced. In 1982 the Ombilin Coal Mine has targeted a production of 300,000 tons.

A large proportion of the production of the Ombilin Coal Mine, or 135,326 tons, was used for domestic requirements, while 91,947 tons were exported to Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh.

In 1980 the Ombilin Coal Mine supplied 118,739 tons for domestic coal requirements, while 80 tons were exported to Bangladesh.

This year it is estimated that domestic coal consumption will remain stable, so that it is hoped that exports will increase to about 150,000 tons, Sazili says.

Within Indonesia coal is used by the State Railways Service, the Padang cement plant, and the INCO nickel mine in Pomalaa, Sulawesi. Sazili said that the domestic use of coal will increase sharply in 1985. "This is because new cement plants and steam-powered electrical generators will have

gone into operation. These will use coal as a fuel," he said. The increased use of coal as a fuel is in accordance with the energy diversification program promoted by the government, Sazili said.

A number of steam-powered electrical generators, including the generator at the Mulut Mine (near the Ombilin Mine, with two 50 MW generators), the Poiton generator (Probolinggo, East Java, two 400 MW generators), and the Suralaya generator in West Java, are presently under construction. The plan is that they will use coal as a fuel. Using coal as a fuel, according to Sazili, is more advantageous than using oil. He gave as an example that a ton of coal (from Ombilin), worth \$56, had the same energy value as 4.5 barrels of oil worth \$153. Other coal per ton has the same energy value as 3.5 barrels of oil. "For that reason the future of coal is quite clear," he said.

To develop coal mining in Indonesia, the government is drafting cooperation programs with four foreign contractors to develop the rather large coal potential in South and East Kalimantan. The four foreign contractors are PT Arutmin Indonesia, PT Utah Indonesia, a joint venture of AGIP and CONSOL, and PT East Kalimantan Prime Coal.

They are already working in the field, carrying out general prospecting, said Sazili. It is hoped that by the beginning of next year exploration will begin, and the exploitation phase will be reached from 1 to 8 years later. The chief of community relations of PN Batubara declared that many foreign firms are interested in digging Indonesian coal. Among these firms are Consol Coal Ltd (United States), a subsidiary of Conoco Oil Company, and Nissao Iwai (Japan), which is working with Mobil Oil Company of the United States on this project.

Cooperation with Nissao Iwai and Mobil Oil has been proposed, and it is hoped that discussions on this matter will be undertaken in the near future. This joint venture intends to dig coal in the Berau area of East Kalimantan.

5170
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PAKISTAN

CONTINUED CURTAILMENT OF FREEDOM OF PRESS DEPLORED

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 21 Jun 82 p 19, 20

[Article by Anis Jilani: "Journalism Has Never Been Completely Free In Pakistan"]

[Text] Some opinions in regard to Pakistan's political system have been seen in these very columns in the past few weeks. Then a few days ago I read an article on freedom of the press and the standards of the press written by a member of the union of a group which was more about the standards of the press than about freedom of the press and in which, like a good student leader, the union member intended to prove the legitimacy of the [recent] attack on the offices of some newspapers. What is regrettable is that in the discussion of Pakistan's political system and the students' improper protest, no one thought it appropriate to mention freedom of the press and freedom of expression. Certainly no one would disagree with the view that freedom of the press has an extremely important role in the progress and political, social and economic stability of a country. Despite the lack of opposition to this important role, perhaps this freedom has not been mentally accepted in our country.

In the 35 years of Pakistan's history, journalism has never been completely free. Restrictions have continually been applied to and lifted from newspapers, journals and other magazines, and people made no protest. The declarations of the stalwarts of journalism have been cancelled hundreds of times and Pakistanis have stood for it. One reason for this is certainly that the people think that problems of journalism are just problems of journalists. Their manner of thinking is this: If there is to be a restriction, then let there be one. A few hundred workers associated with a particular newspaper will be out of work, but this will not affect my livelihood in any way. Forget the public for a few moments; this is the attitude even of most journalists.

Even if they do protest against these restrictions, they are soft-spoken about it, and the slogan, freedom of the press, remains no more than a charming lament. The journalist is at fault in this regard, as well as the public, as he has been unsuccessful in truly demonstrating clearly the importance of the freedom of the press to the people of Pakistan.

No country's political system can be successful without freedom of the press and freedom of expression. Without freedom to disagree, no system can reach durable and lasting stability. Leaving aside criticism of any government, freedom of the press is closely tied to the life of the ordinary citizen. There has never before been so much need for each individual to have his ideas reach others and to have the right to hold a different opinion as there is now in the present age when everyone is slowly losing his individuality. Today every Pakistani, in order to fulfill his purpose, needs a guarantee that he may express his emotions. Keeping in mind Pakistan's present situation in which democracy has stopped in the country and there are no representatives of the people, the need to feel a sense of the right of freedom of expression has become even more necessary.

Pakistan needs freedom of the press even more than western countries do. In addition to differences in situations and systems, when we talk about the press in all Pakistan we do not include such essential institutions as television and radio, perhaps because the television and radio corporations are government institutions. In view of this situation, there is no room for them to depart even the slightest from the government line. The situation for the press trust newspapers too is no different. In this particular situation the press is the sole means whereby the public may express a different opinion and have its views reach others. The press here includes newspapers, magazines, journals and to some extent, books.

Freedom of the press should in no way be taken to mean that everyone should at all times and on all occasions express his opinion. If one group of people agrees with one particular opinion there is no need for the members of this group to have each individual express this opinion. The only thing which should be necessary is that every opinion and matter which is important and worthy of mention should be mentioned and discussed. The goal of freedom of the press is just that no individual shall be said to be "out of order" merely because he is exercising his right to disagree with the point of view of the government or of some other opinion.

Freedom of the press not only can, but should, include the right to hold a different opinion, not only because that opinion is true, but because it is relevant for the country. If any Pakistani seriously believes in something then it is essential that all other Pakistanis be blessed with those ideas so that they may judge the true situation. If any government is afraid of any view or opinion then that government is not fit to rule. Pakistan came into existence in a democratic manner, and democracy avoids suppressing any kinds of ideas.

One can usually say that every idea and every opinion is a means of persuasion. There is very little difference between agitational opinions and an ordinary opinion. This difference depends on how much the one giving the opinion is interested in and believes his own views. Someone who is very eloquent can temporarily set afire a group of people and make them agree with his opinion. The same is true of a good author or columnist. Freedom of expression does not have to do with a limited period of time but with the country's permanent

laws and institutions. It is never a problem related to just one particular incident, but is always of national principles and the country's future. So if in a free and democratic country the majority of the people follow one particular opinion or idea then those in the country who love democracy and raise high the slogan of freedom do not have the right to crush those opinions and ideas. The latter also have the right to disagree with those ideas and they should exercise that right, but with the pen, not with the stick.

If the majority of the population of any country agrees on any one opinion that opinion becomes a "political truth." Crushing this political truth is an injustice not only to the people but to the country itself, and the nation pays the price for such an action for years. Today there is talk in Pakistan of moral standards and of standards of journalism, but the question is never raised, "Whose standards"? Our country is passing through an economic and social age such that there is a world of difference in the moral standards of different classes. Forcing the standards of one class upon another, which will usually be the standards of the governing class, will be totally unjust to the other class. The need for standards of journalism and morality is undeniable, but to determine these standards from above is not the true or appropriate way, and would be synonymous with strangling the nation. The best solution to the problems of nations always comes from the free trade of ideas and opinions. There is no better way to recognize the truth than that it defeated other ideas in the marketplace of ideas. The free competition of opinions in the marketplace of ideas is certainly an experiment, but then all of life is an experiment. We can see several countries which have been profiting from this experiment for centuries. Now in Pakistan we too should move forward with the slogan of freedom of the press and freedom of expression, and give journalism its legitimate rights. In other words, it should be established as the fourth pillar of the country. In the absence of other pillars in the country there is an increase in the responsibilities of this pillar, and it is the duty of every citizen to make it firm and give it support. While we are throwing light upon various political systems we should not forget that no political system can be constructed in Pakistan until there is complete freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

9914
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BREAKDOWN LAW ENFORCEMENT DEcriED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 6 Jul 82 p 5

[Editorial: "Without Comment!"]

[Text] Consider the following news items published in newspapers on 5 July.

1. In the middle of the night, the police intruded into the home of a Hyderabad Councillor. The Councillor Abbasi and his brother were arrested; members of the family were dishonored. The arrest of a councillor and a fruit seller and the connivance of the local administration were condemned in a tumultuous municipal meeting.
2. Armed robbers wounded a cashier and robbed a gas station. Escape with 15,000 rupees. An incident in a Karachi industrial area.
3. A Quetta-bound bus fired on by highway robbers near Usta Muhammad. One person wounded. The robbers escaped.
4. One man wounded in shooting while tying a water buffalo in a playing field in Landhi. Twelve incidents of theft and pickpocketing.
5. The criminal apprehended after the pursuit of a stolen car was a graduate and a naval academy cadet. He confessed to the theft of 15 cars.
6. Unknown assailants shot and killed a man, Gul Muhammad, in Yakmach near Dalbandin, and wounded his companion. The attackers also took the body of Gul Muhammad away with them in a pickup.
7. There was a powerful explosion outside the traffic police office in the district court of Quetta. No one was arrested.
8. With the start of Ramzan there was an increase of theft in Karachi and its suburbs. In just one night there were 11 incidents of theft.
9. The Jauharabad police have still been unsuccessful in capturing the criminals who burglarized the City Flour Mills in Karachi. You will recall that the past day robbers armed with sten guns and revolvers hit the cashier on the temple and made off with 9,000 rupees and 5 people's watches.

10. The past day in Umarkot 3 people attacked and severely wounded Ibrahim Mangrev, the son of Lal Khan Mangrev, the owner of Hur Mujahid Transport and the Chairman of the Union Council of Ghulam Nabi Shah.

11. A burglar stole 25,000 rupees worth of property in Tando Allah Yar.

These are the news items, in addition to the murder of Mahmud Akhtar, which we have brought together from various places from the newspapers of just 5 July. If we look at all of these items at once we can estimate what stage of torment the ordinary citizen is undergoing throughout the whole country from the point of view of law and order.

9914
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THAILAND

MEKONG ISLETS SAID TO BE CAUSE IN LAO-THAI CONFLICT

Bagnkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai 4-10 Jul 82 pp 15, 16

[Article: "Lao Bullets and Thai Boats, Mekong River Twins"]

[Text] At 1502 hours on 17 June 1982, two Mekong River Operations Unit (MROU) patrol boats were fired on simultaneously by three groups of Lao soldiers on Sang Di Islet, which was about 100 meters away. They used small arms and RPG rockets. The boats were fired on as they were returning to port in Phon Phisai District, Nong Khai Province, from an operation in the Ban Nong Kung area.

Even though the boats fired back in a coordinated manner with cover fire from armed vehicles on the bank, Boat 137, one of the two patrol boats, took a direct hit by an RPG round near the flagstaff in the middle of the deck. There was an explosion and a fire broke out. As for Boat 370, it was hit and sunk. Several sailors were injured. Admidst a hail of bullets from the Lao soldiers, the first boat was run aground on the Thai side of the river near Ban Mai Village in Kut Bong Commune, Phon Phisai District, a village that had itself been fired on recently in an attack that resulted in two people being killed.

This was the most violent incident to have occurred between Thailand and Laos last month and it was probably the most serious incident since the beginning of 1982. A report by a naval official has stated that there have been various clashes with Laos firing on MROU boats 13 times and Thailand returning the fire six times. Even though there was an atmosphere of friendship when Phoun Sipaseut, the Lao deputy prime minister, visited Thailand at the end of last year, it seems that not only have the clashes between the two sides not declined but that they have even increased.

Thailand later filed a protest against Laos through Thai diplomatic officials in Laos. As for the MROU boat that was grounded, it was rescued by two other boats that pulled it off the bank and towed it back to its port on 19 June. The Sang Di Islet area where this took place is a dangerous area where the two sides have clashed many times in the past. In particular, there have been four clashes here this year alone.

Thai officials believe that this ambush by Lao troops was an intentional attack that had been prepared in advance. Otherwise, they would not have fired simultaneously from three different points on the islets. And the officials have affirmed that Thailand did not fire first. Because the terrain at Sang Di Islet, which belongs to Laos and which is only 200 meters from the Thai side, is jagged, MROU boats that sail in the middle of the river run the risk of encroaching into [Lao] territory, which is the excuse Laos gives for firing on boats.

However, it is not clear why Laos took such bold action. Sang Di Islet is a point where smuggled goods are brought in and sold all the time. The MROU is responsible for preventing this and this opposes the interests of Laos, which must rely on receiving consumer goods from Thailand. Thus, this may be the reason why the Lao soldiers on the islet fired on the boats. "We are still not certain why they did this. The MROU is investigating," said Vice Admiral Samak Saiwong, the chief of naval operations, to SU ANAKHOT.

Besides this, it is known that the Lao government does not want its citizens to trade freely, especially in the Mekong River area bordering Thailand. But it is the Lao government itself that engages in illegal trading activities. It has established an organization resembling a cooperative in the provinces or cities along the river. Thai merchants who want to trade with them must become members of this organization. And they receive good protection from the Lao forces on the various islets and on the river bank. These forces provide protective fire when goods are being transported across the river and Thai MROU boats are following to seize the boats. But if they are not members, the boats transporting goods are fired on instead.

A few days after this clash at Sang Di Islet, two other MROU boats were fired on by Lao soldiers while on patrol near Ban Hom in At Samat Commune, Muang District, Nakhon Phanom Province. This took place about 2 kilometers from the Thai side of the river, on the Lao side of which is a landing. Thai forces fired back for about 10 minutes but neither side sustained any damage. But, through the Information Office of Supreme Command Headquarters, Thailand strongly condemned this action by Laos and stated that it was a provocation ordered by those controlling Laos, which refers to Vietnam.

Laos itself does not want to beat odds with Thailand since it knows that it must rely on goods from Thailand to support its citizens. Laos has tried to get Thailand to open additional border crossing points. Thailand has tried to respond in an appropriate way in order to promote better relations. But the third faction, that is, Vietnam, does not want to see the friendship between the two countries restored. Thus, it is constantly trying to cause incidents between the two countries by relying on its military forces, which presently have influence over Laos.

"We understand that they cannot control their people. The Lao soldiers are not very disciplined and they try to make profits. At high echelons, we are negotiating with them. It is still our policy to compromise," said the chief of naval operations concerning why Thailand has tried to find all possible

ways to [solve the problems]. Sometimes when Thailand has been fired on, it has done nothing in return except submit a protest. It has not reached the point of teaching [Laos] a lesson by closing the border.

Thai officials also believe that another group that will benefit from the tension between Thailand and Laos is the CPT, which leans toward China and which is trying to bring about such a tense situation in order to keep the influence of the Soviet-faction communists from spreading, which they can do easily if the border is open.

However, just 2 days after this ambush of MROU boats in Nakhon Phanom on 22 June, Thai boats were attacked again in the Ban Cha Ngom area in Nakhon Phanom Province while chasing five fishing boats that were smuggling goods across the river during curfew hours during the middle of the night. One of the boats was seized but the other four escaped and hid among the islets of Laos. These last two incidents occurred during the period the Khmer coalition government was being formed. Thus, it seems that these attacks were a reaction on the part of Vietnam.

"That is possible. But it is more likely that they were accidents," said one naval official.

The chronic problem concerning who owns the islets in the Mekong River that run about 1,000 kilometers near the Lao bank of the river is an important factor in the conflict between the two sides. This problem is the result of a treaty on the border, which has given the advantage to Laos ever since Laos was under the control of France. Of the 64 islets found from Chiang Kham District in Loei Province to Ubon Ratchathani Province, 56 belong to Laos while only eight belong to Thailand.

Also, approximately 20 of the Lao islets are located near the Thai side. They are large islets with Lao troops stationed on most of them. And the deep channel sometimes runs on the other side of the islets, which makes it difficult for the Thai MROU boats to patrol the river. Even though there is a new river friendship treaty that gives boats permission to sail in the channel regardless of whose territory this is, the Lao side has not accepted this and Thai boats must constantly try to avoid [these areas].

"But even though we try to avoid these areas, we have to pass near Wan Yang Kham Islet. And the channel of the Mekong River changes frequently. Boats have to sail near their side, which puts the boats in danger of being attacked. But it is necessary to go from one point to another. Although we have tried to avoid them, if there were no islets there would not be any problem of people or goods being smuggled across," said Vice Admiral Samak sadly. Concerning this, Thailand has made a great effort to have this treaty revised to make it more fair.

"But they are clever enough to respond by saying that things are still difficult. We have constantly tried to find a way. The navy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have constantly been in close contact with each other. But I just don't know how the problem can be solved. Stated frankly, I don't see any way to solve the problem at this time," he said in conclusion with a great sigh.

11943

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THAILAND

BORDER AREA CONTINUES TO SHELTER ANTI BURMA GROUPS

Minority Groups Discussed

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 11 Jul 82 pp 5-7

[Article: "The Free Mons -- A Free Country?"]

[Text] All along the Thai-Burmese border, which runs for more than 1,000 kilometers from the north to the south, there are several independent groups that have relied on the Thai border for many years in their struggle against the Burmese government. Of these groups, one is the Free Mon group at Thung Kang Yang. It is said that this group had connections with powerful people in a previous period. On one hand, there were political benefits in response to the buffer state policy and, on the other hand, there were just economic benefits.

Thung Kang Yang

Thung Kang Yang is located at Village 3 in Sai Yok Commune, Thai Yok District, Kanchanaburi. At present, almost 600 Free Mon families, or about 6,000 people, are living there. They occupy an area totalling 49,425 rai, which is a military reservation in accord with a 1938 royal decree. But the arm of the [Thai] law does not reach here and it is as if there is a Mon state within Thailand.

Colonel Chatri Khattiyanan, the deputy head of the communist suppression [unit] in Kanchanaburi Province, said that around 1955-1957, Mr Chaiyot, or Phayap, Pinsukanchana and Mr Wichai Lochaya, a former MP from Lampang, invited about 40-50 Free Mon families, or about 1,000 people, to come live in Thung Kang Yang. Mr Wichai left in 1959.

Mr Chaiyot, or Phayap, has used the labor of these Free Mons to plant both perennial and annual plants such as coconut, corn, rice and even ginger, from which was produced pickled ginger. Later on, this [latter] activity came to a halt because of financial losses. In return for their labor, Mr Chaiyot pays the Free Mons a daily wage, which today amounts to about 35 baht per day. As for those paid by the month, they receive about 1,000 baht per month. Another method used is to divide the land and charge various fees. When the crops are harvested, the Mons are allotted 20 percent of the yield.

To carry on these activities, Mr Chaiyot has established four companies in accord with the law. The four are the Phra Chedi Farm Company Ltd., the Trade Center Company, the P and T Import-Export Company and the Bangkok Central Supply Company.

The Free State

These Mons do not have I.D. cards. Only some have alien cards. As foreigners who will be expelled in accord with the government's policy, they have never paid taxes. But they have lived in Thailand for 30 years now. Also, they have threatened the Thais living and working in that area. Using the influence of the investors behind them, they have driven out the Thais who were working there before they came. There have been many protests about this but everything has been hushed up as if nothing had happened.

The investors behind them have made their own administrative regulations and set up a nine-man central committee to enforce the regulations. That is, drug addicts are jailed in the railroad car [which serves as a jail] for 24 hours. Gamblers must spend 48 hours in jail. The penalty for having more than one wife or for having a child out of wedlock is banishment from Thung Kang Yang. Thieves are driven out of Sai Yok District.

Besides this, they have officials who maintain order and who patrol at night. There are armed patrols, mobile inspection units, guards and registrars.

Thai officials do not have the right to go in and settle matters. They allow the Mons to administer their own affairs in accord with the policies of the investors in the background.

"I can enter the villages but I do not have the right to do anything. I just go in accord with my duty," said one government administrative official.

In the villages and communes where the Mons have settled down, there are kamnans and village headmen. While the provincial governor and Mr Chaiyot say that "these are kamnans and village headmen who have been appointed in accord with the law," it is suspected that these kamnans and village headmen receive a monthly salary from Mr Chaiyot as workers in the Free Mon zone.

This Affects Security

Colonel Chatri Khattiyanan, the deputy head of the Kanchanaburi provincial communist suppression unit, said that provincial intelligence sources had reported that the Free Mons at Thung Kang Yang provide support to the Free Mons of "Nora," who has formed forces to fight the Burmese government and who operates along the Thai border near the Chedi Sam Ong checkpoint.

The Kanchanaburi provincial report stated that the Mons at Thung Kang Yang provide a pool of forces. The young men qualified to serve as soldiers are sent for weapons training. As for how the weapons are obtained, they are procured

in Bangkok and then transported to Thung Kang Yang, from where they are sent to the border.

"It is clear that in one period, there were radio communications between Chedi Sam Ong and their supporters in Bangkok," said Colonel Chatri. And he added that "we can prove what make of radio they used, what transmission methods they used and their code numbers."

Besides this, they coordinate activities and this is a rest place for important Free Mons. Whoever wants to go to Bangkok must first stop off at Thung Kang Yang. "The important leaders of the Mons often stay at Wat Prok in Yannawa," said Colonel Chatri.

As for the economic losses, the deputy head of the communist suppression [unit] in Kanchanaburi Province said that it is clear that the companies are the ones that are profiting while the government is the loser. This has generated a feeling that the government has ignored things and allowed foreigners to come in and make profits. Thais who take over land are arrested. But the "Mons at Thung Kang Yang have not been arrested."

And they compete with Thais for jobs since the Mons are scattered about various provinces. For example, many have gone to mine gemstones in Chanthaburi and Trat provinces.

The Involvement of Thai Officials

The Thung Kang Yang area is a restricted zone that has been set aside for the use of the military in accord with the 1938 Royal Decree on Restricted Reserve Areas.

Rear Admiral Saradet Amnankhasaradet, the head of the Region 4 National Security Command Headquarters and the former director of the project to expand the production of protein crops, stated that he had received the policy from the government during the administration of Field Marshal Thanom. He was told to expand the production of protein crops at Ban Phuk Kra Rieng in Sai Yok District, Kanchanaburi Province. He received this [order] in January 1968.

Then, on 8 September 1970, Rear Admiral Saradet sent a petition to Mr Phat Phinthuyothin, the governor of Kanchanaburi Province at that time, requesting permission to use this land. But the provincial governor responded by saying that this land belonged to the military and that he should request permission from the "army." He thus filed a petition with the army asking their permission. General Sitthi Chirarot, the assistant commander in chief of the army, sent, on behalf of the RTA CINC, a letter granting permission on 17 August 1977.

In summary, the area that National Security Command Headquarters requested from the army in order to expand the production of protein crops totalled approximately 69,151 rai. And this area encompassed the Thung Kang Yang area too.

However, 22 years [sic] after permission was granted, General Charoen Phongphanit, the deputy head of National Security Command Headquarters, sent, on behalf of the head of National Security Command Headquarters, a letter to the RTA CINC in order to return control of approximately 49,525 rai to the army. It kept only about 19,726 rai. It did this because the project to develop pasture land for livestock had not made progress. National Security Command Headquarters formed a committee to investigate the reason for this, and it was learned that various obstacles had arisen. For example, the land was composed of rocky hills, thick forests and large trees that were difficult to remove. Also, equipment, manpower and money [for the project] were limited.

It is worth noting that the area that National Security Command Headquarters returned to the army was the Thung Kang Yang area. And the contents of the letter returning this area can be summarized by saying that the Thung Kang Yang area is the responsibility of the army and is in the area of responsibility of the First Army Area.

Concerning the role of government units, especially National Security Command Headquarters, it is said that these units played a great role in helping to develop Thung Kang Yang Village. In particular, they built roads to the village and provided plants.

"When I came here, Rear Admiral Saradet was very good to us. He gave us various kinds of plants," said Chaiyot. However, National Security Command Headquarters was the operations unit that received a policy from high echelons. Rear Admiral Saradet said that "I worked as a development official only. The policy I received called for me to develop this area."

Besides this, the Border Patrol Police have played a role in building schools, and, to this day, they have provided teachers to teach the Mon children.

The Choices of the Government

In summary, the Free Mons have been able to live at Thung Kang Yang for several decades because of the government's policy of ignoring this. Also, there has been a high-level policy of providing help with certain matters. And the things that have happened have been ignored and become chronic.

"The province or administrative units must wait for policies from higher-echelon units. Otherwise, the province will not be able to solve the problems correctly," said Colonel Chatri.

A House of Representatives subcommittee on foreign affairs has become active and begun to study this problem in order to summarize the facts so that the government can take action.

Lieutenant General Chan Angsuchot, the chairman of the foreign affairs subcommittee, stated that, in his view, the government will take action to see to it that the Mons follow the national laws. And the government should manage the area

by limiting the area used for earning a living. Each family can be allotted about 25 rai. The remaining area will be divided among the Thais to work. And the important thing is that the Burmese government must not be led to suspect that the Mons at Thung Kang Yang are supporting the forces of the Free Mons.

"Expelling them would be difficult since they have lived here so long, and we do not know where to send them," said Lieutenant General Chan. He also said that the "Mons should be used in ways that will benefit our economy and they must obey our laws."

Thus, the government should do something to solve this problem. One way is to expel them. Another way is to have the Mons at Thung Kang Yang obey the laws of the country by abandoning the policy of using them as a buffer state and not providing them with direct and indirect support as in the past.

Mon Leaders Interviewed

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 11 Jul 82 pp 6, 7

[Interviews with Chaiyot Pinsukanchana, formerly known as Sinchiu Saeyap, age 52, and Yen Lochaya, the village headman: "We Have Our Own Laws"; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] Why did you come to Thung Kang Yang?

[Chaiyot] We came here because we did not know this was government land. We came in 1952.

[Question] Where did you get your workers from?

[Chaiyot] Eighty percent of them were born here.

[Question] Do the workers have registration, or I.D., cards?

[Chaiyot] They do not have registration cards. At present, they cannot register because government officials will not let them. But we have a kanman who administers things.

[Question] Is this kanman a government official?

[Chaiyot] Yes.

[Question] But we are governed by regulations that we ourselves have set.

[Chaiyot] Everything follows the government bureaucracy.

[Question] Why are those who break the law punished in accord with the regulations here, such as by jailing them in the railroad car?

[Chaiyot] I do not know anything about this. Who said there was a railroad car jail?

[Question] There have been pictures.

[Chaiyot] Our official is a kamnan in accord with the law.

[Question] Where did this kamnan come from? Who elected him?

[Chaiyot] (Phaksuk Kamphu, the provincial governor answered instead) This village is located in Thammada Commune. The people living here are refugees. Government officials have not agreed to give control cards to each person. After 1970, we were going to expel them. We controlled them using registers in the communes and villages.

[Question] There have been reports that you [Mr Chaiyot] were once a soldier in Singapore.

[Chaiyot] Yes. I was once a cadet at Yobaru in Singapore. I served in Japan for 3 years as a member of an English volunteer force.

[Question] What will you do if you are expelled?

[Chaiyot] Concerning this, the high-ranking people will probably show compassion.

[Question] You were allowed to come here because of Thailand's buffer state policy, weren't you?

[Chaiyot] I do not know. You can say that I am wrong but that is of no matter. You can shoot me but I won't respond.

[Question] How were you able to come here?

[Yen Lochaya] Mr Chaiyot asked me to come.

[Question] The military says that young men from Thung Kang Yang are sent for weapons training with the "Nora" group.

[Yen] That is not true. We just work. That could not be true. It may be that the two groups, that is, the group of Suai Chin and the group of Nora, do not get along and so they have spread such reports to damage [our image].

[Question] Why were the Mons able to come live here?

[Yen] I do not know. I am not interested.

[Question] How long have you lived here?

[Yen] Twenty-eight years.

[Question] How did you happen to become the village headman?

[Yen] There are more than 100 people who have registered with government officials. They elected me.

[Question] It is said that Mons here are punished very harshly.

[Yen] We have a committee that meets to discuss what should be done whenever someone does something wrong. Everyone expresses an opinion.

[Question] But what about such harsh punishment as imprisonment in the railroad car?

[Yen] How could it be so harsh? (Laughs) It is next to a police station. We do not have the right.

[Question] Have any Mons here ever been jailed in a government jail?

[Yen] Yes, many. When they leave this area or when they secretly go into the city.

[Question] Then, what this means is that, if someone does something wrong here, we use our own laws and do not follow the national laws.

[Yen] Yes. For infractions here, we use our own regulations.

[Question] How much do workers here make?

[Yen] The daily wage is 35-40 baht per day. The monthly salary is 700-1,000 baht per month. If land is divided, the workers are given 20 percent of the yield.

[Question] If you are expelled from Thailand, what would the result be?

[Yen] I do not know. If asked about being expelled, no one would say that they want to leave since life here is good.

Golden Triangle Conflict Noted

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 11 Jul 82 pp 8, 9

[Article: "The Thai-Burmese Border: A Never-Ending War"]

[Text] One part of the Thai-Burmese border lies in the Golden Triangle, the largest narcotics trafficking area in the world and the scene of continual small wars. Since the beginning of 1982, more than three violent battles requiring the use of regular military forces, aircraft and bombs have been fought against the minority forces there. The first battle, fought in January, was launched in order to suppress "Ban Hin Taek," the large base of an international narcotics

kingpin. The second battle was the battle at Ban Lao Lu, a large military base of Khun Sa, who had fled from Ban Hin Taek.

The latest battle took place last week between 28 June and 1 July. The 65th Battalion of the Burmese army launched an operation against a minority group along the Thai border near Mae Ai District in Chiang Mai Province. Concerning this operation, a report from Burma stated that there were seven clashes. Two Burmese soldiers were killed. Three heroin refineries and around 100 huts were seized. Also seized were chemicals used to produce heroin, weapons, \$660,606 million in Burmese currency and a printing press for printing counterfeit Burmese currency.

The report also stated that the main purpose of this operation was to reduce the influence of the Burmese Communist Party (BCP), which has begun to expand. At present, these forces reach 18,000 men. Almost all of these are from minority groups since there are many ethnic minority groups. These forces have an advantage over other forces that emphasize race. Also, this group is the second largest producer of narcotics after Khun Sa.

Thus, the expansion of the BCP is something that has forced Thailand and Burma to launch suppression operations in order to reduce the influence of this group as quickly as possible, regardless of the cost of doing so. However, conducting joint operations in order to suppress them is still a problem. To date, the usual form has been "cooperation" rather than joint operations. In this, Burma or Thailand informs the other side when it launches a suppression operation and has the other side wait to intercept the minority forces and not let them flee across the border and escape.

This major Burmese sweep operation involved about 400 troops. They attacked several minority group bases simultaneously. Forces were sent to attack Ban Doi San, which is in the area of the Wa National Liberation Army, Doi Man Fong, [which is the base of] the Lahu Army, and Doi Lang, which is where Lao Su, a heroin kingpin, fled to and hid after being sentenced to death in Thailand. Burma was able to seize all three of these mountain [bases]. The result was that approximately 600 minority group troops fled, with heavy weapons and rifles, across the border into Thailand in the area of Mae Ai District, Chiang Mai Province.

The report stated that these minority groups have tried to avoid fighting the Burmese government. Even though Burma has more troops and weapons, it cannot seize and occupy this land that is composed of mountainous jungle but can make an attack and then withdraw. Thus, by avoiding clashes, the minority groups can preserve their forces. However, it is worth noting that before Burma launched this attack, Mr Chare Thun, who is close to Khun Sa, came and established himself as the leader of an illegal tax collection checkpoint in the Doi Lang area. Thus, it is believed that Khun Sa is gaining greater influence in this area.

A news source has revealed that the suppression operations in this period have achieved two results. They have halted the expansion of the BCP , which had begun to expand its influence among the group at Doi Lang and among the forces of Khun Sa, who has become more active and started to take control of this area after the destruction of his bases at Ban Hin Taek and Ban Lao Lu. The second result concerned the effort to prevent the CPT from making contact with the BCP concerning transport routes since the CPT had its Lao and Vietnamese transport routes cut after the events in Kampuchea, which was occupied by Vietnam 4 years ago.

When Burma launched this suppression operation, Thai officials sent soldiers, border patrol police and thanan phran irregulars to seal off the border and prevent the forces of the minority groups from crossing over into Thailand. Border patrol police were sent to make preparations and to negotiate with them to get them to withdraw peacefully before things turned violent. The minority group forces that crossed over were all armed with M16s, K60s and recoilless rifles. A clash was avoided and they agreed to move their forces north along the border. Burma was not able to follow and wipe them out because the Burmese troops were much less skilled in this harsh terrain than were the forces of the minority groups.

As for the time before there was such close cooperation among the officials working along the Thai-Burmese border, Colonel Somsak Sirisuphandit, the secretary to the director of the Thai-Burmese Border Policy Implementation [unit], spoke about a conference held for more than 374 officials from both the central and provincial sectors. He said that the conference stressed the Thai government's sincerity toward the Burmese government. And he repeated that, within Thai territory, the only people allowed to bear arms and uphold the law are officials. Those who are not officials are not allowed to have weapons. Also, the 30,000 Burmese refugees here will be closely supervised. They will not be allowed to do anything that poses a danger to security and they will not be allowed to use Thai territory to make attacks on friendly neighboring countries.

It is well known that some of the minority groups living along the border were once hired to work as "mercenaries" in order to guard the construction of strategic roads. They were given the right to use war weapons. And some of these weapons were used for illegal purposes. The conference, and Thailand's new measures, pointed out that Thai-Burmese relations in the field of mutual cooperation are very close, especially in suppressing the minority groups that have become closer to the BCP. The main goal is to cooperate in suppressing the communists, after once having used the minority groups as "buffers."

Concerning the suppression of the Burmese minority groups, actually this is an internal problem of Burma that has affected Thailand in the border area. [The minority groups] use this area as a hiding place in order to escape from the suppression operations. Also, "opium," which is the only economic crop of the hill tribes, is relied on to obtain money to help form armies.

But even if Thailand and Burma cooperate to the point of conducting joint military operations just as Thailand and Malaysia have done, it will still not be possible to solve the minority group problem in Burma. This minority group war is a war that is being waged by various groups and it will not end. The profits from opium, which is refined into heroin, are very great and no one dares to really destroy [the poppies].

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THAILAND

MORE RECRUITMENT OF GUARDS FOR IRAQ REPORTED

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 6 Jun 82 pp 7, 8

[Article: "Mercenaries (for Iraq), Another Step in Thai Labor"]

[Text] While Thai workers are meeting their fates, having been deceived into going to work in the Middle East, the policy at high levels of government has not been resolved. News has spread that people are being hired to fight in Iraq. Thai workers are becoming victims of the desire for personal gain, which would cost them their lives.

Activities Revealed

Sargeant Major Songthan Panyadi, MP for Chiangrai, revealed that influential firms and their comrades in commercial operations in Chiangrai Province have announced they are seeking applicants to become mercenaries in Iraq. Those who apply must have proof that they are soldiers in the reserves and must pay an application fee of 50 baht. The firm will pay an advance of 60,000 baht per person and 10,000 baht monthly salary. If the person dies, they will pay his family 100,000 baht.

"Some people asked me if they are really going to fight or if it's a trap, because the firm is seeking 300 applicants," Sargeant Major Songtham said.

When he learned of this the MP from Chiangrai got in touch with Lieutenant General Thurayut Thumanon, head of the war veterans' settlement of Chiangrai, but the latter said, "Veterans are not involved."

Mr Chirayut Khunaphon, Chiangrai Provincial Labor, said concerning this that several applicants came to discuss becoming mercenaries for Iraq without having to pay a go-between, and with applicants receiving a large sum of money before leaving; but when the firm was questioned, they denied they sent people to fight and said that they sent workers with the permission of the Labor Department, Chiangrai Registration 1/2521.

"So the police became interested in investigating. They maintain that there was a promise to send a quota of 200 men to be guards of oil storehouses and airfields," Chiangrai Provincial Labor reports.

The Announcement

The report stated that rumors of people being sought to be mercenaries for Iraq have been circulating for 2-3 months, but there has been no firm evidence, although the activities of enlisting applicants merit suspicion. For example, some places have accepted applicants who have been in the military and are under 35 with renumeration similar to that reported.

One worker now staying at the Mitari Hotel who is waiting to go do construction work in South Africa, revealed that "some people claim that officers have contacted them about fighting in Iraq, but not my group."

Also, there is one firm that finds people to work as security guards by a backdoor method, sending a go-between to arrange for work in Iraq for those aged 26-36, with the agreement of the embassy and a monthly salary of 10,000 baht, an advance of 50,000 baht and 100,000 baht upon death.

"Two or three of my workers agreed to go. They were supposed to leave within 2 days, but after the news came out, their departure was probably delayed."

The tactics of a security protection firm to persuade workers are used because of the qualifications of such workers, who must have been in the military previously.

Announcement of Acceptance of Applications

According to the announcement, though one probably won't find written evidence, on 16 May the Thoemsak Solar Energy Company at 425 Phailom precinct in the district capital, Det-udom Street, Nakhonrachasima province, announced it was sending people to work in Iraq.

The substance of the letter to prospective applicants was: "It is because Iraq needs Thai workers who have been in the military and are now in the reserves without any obligation to the government or the military, who are willing to go become guards at government buildings in Iraq."

These are the details: There is a 2-year contract. There is 1 month of vacation for 11 months of work. The salary is 10,000 baht per month and may increase when appropriate. There is no overtime. There is an 8-hour work-day. We are to be guards for the Iraqi Government. After we go we receive at least 7 days of training. There is no fee at all. Iraq will reimburse us for passports, but we (the workers) must pay for them first. And, those interested may contact the representative at the Iraqi embassy, Captain Toemsak Changlo. At the end of the letter of invitation, he repeats: "No fee is required at all," and signs it "information officer for policies of the Iraqi Embassy."

From a quick look at the details of the above job announcement, it may be just a request for Thais to go work as security guards, but the fact that no fee is asked fits in with the activity of hiring people to fight in Iraq.

Mr. Pahithun Chanthalachampi, Labor, Nakhonrachasima province, revealed to SAPPADA WICHAN that "I am following these activities also. I have sent officials to keep a steady watch. We have tried asking workers but have not gotten any details. Right now we are calling on the news media in Khorat. TV Channel 5 in Khonkaen is helping to spread the news that it isn't true about hiring people to fight, because otherwise people would keep pouring into Khorat every day."

Today (1 June) two pickup trucks came from Khonkaen bringing in applicants, according to reports," said Nakhonrachasima Labor. "Now I am getting in touch with the district chief to call for a meeting of precinct heads and village heads to help point out the truth."

Mr Thoemsak's firm did not receive permission from the Labor Department to arrange for work, and Provincial Labor says they cannot proceed legally because there has not yet been a complaint.

"Yes. Our firm sends people to the Middle East," an official in the office of Captain Thoemsak replied curtly, and he said, "Mr Thoemsak is not in. He is in Bangkok."

Iraqi Embassy Denial

A news report from the Ministry of the Interior revealed that high level officials of the Labor Department met with representatives of the Iraqi Embassy, who denied that Thais were hired to fight in Iraq.

However, the AP reported that 20-30,000 Egyptian enlistees have already gone to fight in Iraq and that Iraq has asked Egypt to send soldiers to fight but hasn't received an answer.

Mr Prasat Maensuwan, head of the news bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told SAPPADA WICHAN that "there has not yet been an official letter of denial from the Iraqi Embassy."

"As for those who are going to Iraq now, we have no way of investigating except through the Iraqi Embassy," Mr Prasat said.

Victims of Personal Gain

News reports say that the Department of Labor sent a letter to the director of the Police Department requesting that they join together in following the matter closely. After the news of sending Thais to be mercenaries spread, Mr Charoen Siriphan, Deputy Director of the Labor Department, said that he had heard about it. So the Labor Department sent officials to join police officials in seeking the truth. They asked the special war center's Pawai paratroopers, Lopburi Province, whether or not Thais have been trained to fight in Iraq, but they denied being involved in the matter.

"Any firm that sends workers to fight must go through legal discussions, because it is against legal stipulations," Deputy Director of the Labor Department said.

"I still don't know of this. I have not received a report," General Sitti Chirarot, minister of the interior, said, shaking his head. "If I were the Thais, I wouldn't do this, because it does not involve the use of manpower."

In any case, from these reports it can be concluded that people are seeking personal gain by sending workers to be mercenaries in Iraq, with workers staking their lives on the great compensation. The government should reveal the truth and find a way to suppress these people completely, because underhandedness is not beneficial, especially to international friendships.

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THAILAND

FAULTY GAS LINE CONSTRUCTION COULD POSE FUTURE DANGERS

Bangkok STAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 20 Jun 82 pp 7-8

[Article: "Natural Gas Lines: Danger in Installments"]

[Text] The glory of natural gas and industrialization for the nation seems to be never-ending, as gas lines meet with problems of safety and longevity due to faulty construction. And the Thai Petroleum Agency [TPA]--responsible for the incident of the ship "Maritime Eagle" reported by SAPPADA WICHAN earlier--which has paid for the construction and laid the pipes on schedule as promised, does not want the matter brought up.

Natural Gas Lines

In the natural gas business, the Thai Government through the Petroleum Agency invests in only one thing: the laying of gas pipelines both in the ocean and on land. The TPA contracted with the Sino-Thai-CAP-CON-SMI corporation for the laying of pipes on land for U.S. \$15,558,938 or about 311,178,360 baht, work was to begin on 26 May 1980 and be completed by 15 June 1981.

According to the contract, the land-based gas lines would begin where the sea-based pipes ended, going from the vicinity of Nongfaep village in the district capital, Rayong province, to within about 4.5 kilometers of the Bangphakong Southern Municipal Electric Plant, a distance of about 160 kilometers.

This pipe-laying was overseen by the engineering consulting firm Fluor Ocean Services International or Fluor, with five people from the TPA comprising a board directly responsible for inspecting the work of the construction unit headed by Mr Aphisit Ruchikiatkamchon.

Problems of Work Distribution

In the end, the pipe-laying was completed by the stipulated time, and the prime minister is to proclaim the glory in the vicinity of the Bangphakong Electric Plant. However, there will be problems in the near future, as the gas lines have several weak points due to their construction. The question is whether or not the TPA alone shoulders the burden and takes the responsibility.

News reports from the TPA state that the problems of distribution of the construction work were present from the beginning of the inspection assignment. Some members assigned to the inspection were not willing to take the assignment because they thought that construction was not up to specifications, but they were not paid any attention. High-level officials of the TPA continually claimed at meetings of the TPA subcommittee, with Air Force Lt General Suli Mahasantha as chairman, that construction must proceed on time as stipulated for the opening of the land-based pipeline.

No Lines Laid Out, Pipes not Bent to Shape

The report states that the land-based pipes were laid out improperly, differing from what was stipulated in the contract in several ways. No lines were put down along the route of the pipes. When the pipes were put down one by one, there were difficult obstacles, so ways to avoid them had to be found. The news report stated that the result of these diversions can be seen clearly around Thepharak Street, where "almost the whole line was laid wrong."

The report from the TPA also revealed that, in addition, there were problems of pipes not being bent according to the land contours. When it was necessary to bypass water or low places, the pipes were laid on top. No supports were constructed to hold them up, so the pipes sagged to support themselves. At first some pipes were bent to fit the contours of the earth, but at the end they were laid in a straight line, with no ups and downs at all.

The news reports reveal that when pipes were laid over five canals, including Bangping and Samrong canals, they were not bent according to specifications, which stipulated that the pipes must be made to lie at least 1.5 meters below the bed of the canal. Rather, they were laid across the canals, making it inconvenient for boats to pass and making it difficult for the Department of Irrigation to dredge the canals.

Changing the Stipulations

In addition, stipulations in the contract were changed. It was originally stipulated that pipes in the vicinity of water--wells and flowing water--be buried 1.5 meters in the ground, but when the company with the contract was not able to do it, the TPA approved a change in the stipulations to bury them only around .76 meters, and in some cases allowed the use of stones or concrete.

And pipes laid under the street, it appears, also were not laid according to specifications. It was stipulated that metal casings be used to cover the pipes, and that between the pipes and the casings there be protective jelly to protect against impact. But the constructing company did not comply with the specifications in many cases, laying down the pipes with concrete to avoid this and running into problems from the weight of roads, which are always vibrating and carry freight vehicles of all weights and sizes.

Another problem, which was avoided in the end, was a defect in 35 of the connectors which were going to have to be redone; but in the end there were

defects in only 2 connectors, as most turned out to be "scratches" on the x-rays rather than defects in the connectors.

Danger By Installments

Defects in connectors, not bending pipes to fit, and allowing the pipes to bear the weight and vibrations that result from not bending the pipes, though they vibrate from any sort of impact, may cause problems of leaks in the connectors, or pipes may break, posing great danger to safety, especially when the weakness in the pipeline is in a populated area.

The report from the TPA said that problems occurring in the near future will be from the layout of the pipes; that is, when the pipes were laid out along highways it was harmful to the roads and could be an obstacle to highway expansion. The next problems will be that not bending the pipes will allow forces to push and pull freely on the pipes. The metal pipes act as a spring and oscillate and vibrate. When gas flows at a high pressure, if a pipe was not buried as deeply as stipulated, it will vibrate more.

The report claimed that decreasing the amount of earth covering the pipes would also make them less safe in the long run. Tractors, plows and freight trucks can be a danger to the pipes. If the pipes pass over river basins or soft ground, the solution of covering the pipes with stones is not a permanent one. They will be washed away or damaged by erosion.

In cases where the pipes were laid under roads without casings, allowing the pipes to bear the weight of the road itself, the pipes may bend. Even if they don't break, connectors may come apart due to the weight and vibrations over a long period.

When the land-based pipes break because they were not constructed as specified, the gas in the pipes will be released with a pressure of 300-400 pounds per square inch, and in populated areas flaming stoves or fuel must not be used because of the danger of leaked gas starting fires.

Where Does the Responsibility Lie?

The report states that, even if there were defects in the work, it is the TPA, the employer, that must pay the price of the loss and be called upon to pay any fine. In addition, as a result of the defective work, the TPA will have to spend a large amount of money to ensure safety in the future, if the gas lines are to last and actually bring about a continuing glorious policy on both natural gas and industry.

It has been said that the engineering company in charge of advising and overseeing the work was Fluor, with the TPA's commission inspecting the work, but in the first stages of the work, the entire responsibility belonged to the administrator, the TPA, as the one who provided the details of the progress of the pipe-laying to the petroleum subcommittee, which is the organ with power to accept the work or not, or to repair defects or not.

The dangers that may arise from the land-based pipes are visible dangers, and even with safety valves to cut off the gas at stations at certain intervals if there are leaks, the gas between those stations can be a danger in itself.

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END